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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST IN 1899¹

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The archeological investigations conducted under my direction on the North Pacific coast, during the year 1899, for the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, were a continuation of researches pursued in the same field during the two preceding seasons and were directed toward problems suggested largely by the results of the previous work. In the state of Washington it was considered desirable (1) to extend existing knowledge of the distribution and character of cairns and burial mounds; (2) to make a reconnaissance of the shell-heaps of Puget sound and the western coast with special reference to a determination (*a*) of their character and distribution, (*b*) of the southern limits of the North Pacific coast culture in America, (*c*) of any possible influence from the region of the lower Columbia, and (*d*) to learn if the shell-heaps of the lower Fraser have analogy with those of this area.

In British Columbia further investigation of the cairns and shell-heaps of southeastern Vancouver island was desirable. It was necessary also to study the archeology of Lillooet valley with reference to possible communication of coast culture with the interior, and vice versa. Graves under rock-slides were reported by Indians to occur in Nicola valley, and since thus differing in character from those found at Kamloops, Spences Bridge, and Lytton, they also were to be closely examined.

Our knowledge of the distribution of cairns was extended to Whidbey island, where there were found many of the type com-

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mon to the vicinity of Victoria, and containing skeletons in a fair state of preservation. No burial mounds were seen during the year.

On the western coast of Washington shell-heaps were found around Shoalwater bay, Gray's harbor, and at Copalis head; and on Puget sound and the straits of Juan de Fuca they are very numerous. As usual, these vary in size, but in no way do they differ widely in character from those of the eastern coast of Vancouver island.

Throughout the region south of Seattle there were found small chipped arrowpoints of agate and other stone especially suited to implements of this sort, and being decidedly of the type of those found in Columbia valley near The Dalles. Such stone arrowpoints are less frequently found in the immediate region of Puget sound, and they are still more scarce in the area farther north.

In addition to the indication of cultural influence from Columbia valley in the region south of Seattle, as displayed by the arrowpoints mentioned, there were found several other objects which strengthen the hypothesis that such influence existed. On the coast, from Gray's harbor southward, grooved hammers with a pit on one side, in the center of the groove, were discovered. From Copalis head southward there were found stone hammers resembling, in general form, a pestle of square cross-section, with rounded corners, with hat-shape top (which in some specimens was specialized to represent an animal head), and with no battered or abraded end, but having pits on either side, indicating use on the sides as a hammer rather than on the end as a pestle. Another hammer bears the shape of the frustum of a cone with a smaller frustum for a handle, the two frusta being base to base and having the corners rounded. On Gray's harbor a pile-driver is found, but with one handle instead of the usual two-hand lugs.

On the western coast sinkers were collected, some with a single groove, others with a second groove at a right angle to the

first and in some cases extending only half-way round; i. e., from the first groove over the end and meeting it on the opposite side. On this coast, as also on Puget sound, occurs the stone club with perforated handle-knob and of lozenge shape in cross-section with rounded corners. In the latter area is found another type of stone club—that of the well-known paddle or *patté* shape. On upper Puget sound is discovered a stone club with two ax-like blades. Stone clubs of similar form, but having the end near the blades specialized to represent the head of an animal, are found in Columbia valley and even as far to the south as northern California. The common fish-rake points made of bone, harpoon-points and barbs, barbed harpoon-points, stone celts, wedges made of antler, and whetstones are also found throughout the entire region. The stone pestles of Puget sound, like the typical form of that implement found at Lytton, have hat-shape tops and striking-heads, or, like those of northern Vancouver island, have a striking-head at each end (the faces of which are nearly parallel), one being smaller than the other.

The southern limit of North Pacific coast culture and the northern limit of important influence from the Columbia seem to coalesce in the region from Shoalwater bay to Seattle.

In the delta region of St. Ilaguamish and Skagit rivers the material of which the shell-heaps are composed resembles that of like remains on the lower Fraser, and skeletons are almost as frequently obtained in the layers. The objects procured therefrom are not so numerous nor of such a high degree of art as those found in the shell-heaps near the Fraser, but are similar to, although more abundant than, the artifacts from the coast heaps. On the whole, the difference in character between the delta shell-heaps and those of the coast seems to be due to the blackness of the surrounding soil, the action of the water in the lowlands, and the dissimilarity between the mode of life of a river and a beach people. The more frequent occurrence of skeletons is not explained. The difference between the various delta shell-heaps

seems to be due to the fact that in the region of the lower Fraser the culture of its inhabitants was more highly developed, probably on account of a more favorable environment.

Active work in the cairns of southeastern Vancouver island resulted in the collection of a large quantity of additional osteological material which will doubtless prove useful in determining the physical characteristics and relationships of the cairn builders.

A fragment of a tubular pipe of steatite and a short tubular pipe of the same material from the shell-heaps near North Saanich suggest influence on the art products of this section from the interior by way of Fraser river. This indication is strengthened by the fact that in the lower layers of the shell-heaps are found skulls which closely resemble the narrower of the two types of crania from a shell-heap in Fraser delta.

In Lillooet valley the chipped projectile-points are generally of glassy basalt, as is the case in the interior, rather than in the delta of the Fraser or on the coast. A few stone hammers or pestles from the valley named resemble those of Lytton, but the typical form, which has previously been described, is like that of northern Vancouver island. The rarity of this type in Fraser delta suggests that the art products of Lillooet valley were influenced from Vancouver island by a more northerly route. But an adz of iron was found hafted in a piece of antler exactly as are the stone celts from Fraser delta. Carved stone dishes, such as were sacrificially used in recent times by the Indians, at the time of taking the first salmon each year, are also found in Lillooet valley. Their carving, which slightly resembles that of the dishes of the vicinity of Yale, Sumas prairie, and southeastern Vancouver island, is of special interest as its real affiliations are yet to be found.

Nicola river descends rapidly from the top of the plateau to the Thompson, where it has eroded a deep valley. At the bases of the rock-slides in several places in this valley graves were discovered which had been made on the ground and the talus slope

then sufficiently disturbed to cause the rocks to slide down and cover the body. One of these graves was covered with a tent formed of mats supported on poles, confirming the belief that the poles and wooden slabs found over graves at Spences Bridge and Kamloops were the remains of similar tents. The contents of the Nicola valley graves were of practically the same character as those of the other graves examined in the southern interior of British Columbia. Some beautiful double-blade celts of nephrite (two of them being each over thirteen inches in length) were also found here. Certain other specimens from graves, such as copper pendants for the middle of a necklace, were similar to objects obtained at Lytton, where their use was not fully understood; here, however, they were found in such a good state of preservation and under such circumstances that their use is obvious.

It is desirable to continue the archeological investigations in Lillooet valley, especially in its northwestern part, for the purpose of comparing the culture of its former inhabitants with that of the northern portion of Vancouver island. On the south the valley of the Fraser between Lytton and Port Hammond should be examined, with particular regard to sculpture for comparison with the type found in Lillooet valley. The Columbia river region in the interior of Washington and Oregon probably contains the key to several problems, especially with reference to those of the interior of British Columbia. The culture of the western coast of Vancouver island, while probably similar to that of the surrounding region already examined, should also be studied for the purpose of completing the reconnoissance of the immediate region. To extend such a reconnoissance it will be necessary to study the archeology of the Lower Columbia on the south, and of Queen Charlotte islands and southern Alaska on the north.

